

A System of Treatment. Edited by Arthur Latham and T. Crisp English. 4 vols. Macmillan Co., New York, 1912.

This encyclopedic work in four large volumes aims to cover the medical and surgical treatment of all diseases. The purpose of this rather bulky work seems to have been acceptably accomplished and there remains practically nothing that can be added to it to insure completeness. Only the constant changing of additions to our medical and surgical armamentarium can vitiate the value of such a reference work as this, but that is a weakness to which most scientific books are susceptible. Yet, large as this system is, treatment in extenso of any particular disease is not usually given. Another objection might be raised that too much ground is covered and, since the volumes are far from being compact and handy, why not refer to the original sources in each field? General Medicine, the whole scope of Surgery, Tropical Diseases, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Skin Diseases, are all covered in these four volumes by men who are each eminent in their specialties. In general the work compels admiration and appreciation but is rather appalling as to bulk and not reassuring as to practical usefulness.

E. H. T.

Massage—Its Principles and Technic. By Max Bohm, M. D., of Berlin, Germany, edited, with an introduction, by Charles F. Painter, M. D., Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at Tufts Medical School, Boston. Octavo of 91 pages, with 97 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1913. Cloth, \$1.75 net.

This is a good book. It is a particularly good book; and none the less so because there are but 71 pages of illustration and text combined, and even then quite three-fourths of the space is taken up with the illustrations. Now a man who has a message and who in these days of endless repetition and tiresome elaboration is so unselfish as to deliver himself of that message in 15 or 16 pages of print may properly be regarded as a public benefactor. Peculiarly is this so when the author is a German; for German medical writers are the most ponderously prolix perpetrators of literary impositions still at large.

An explanation of the author's self suppression is found in the introduction. Without parading the fact he has dedicated his book to his teacher—has written it in reality as a tribute to the memory of that teacher. We quote the last paragraph of his introduction: "The technic of the massage described is essentially that which is employed in Hoffa's Clinic." (Any but a devoted and grieving pupil might have crabbied it for his own and found very near home eminent precedent for so doing. "If I should succeed in preserving after the death of its author an interest in this easily understood form of massage and extend its practice, the aim of this book would be accomplished.")

As an illustration of what Bohm might have done we may add that before us is another treatise on massage by a practitioner of eminence, with various dislocated fragments of the alphabet after his name, in which the same ground is covered in some 360 pages, and there are no illustrations at all. But can massage be learned from books or taught in correspondence schools? We think not. If it be possible to learn massage through studying text and illustration we know no book among the many treatises we have read which we would prefer to the one we are reviewing. Nor do we think that our judgment is materially influenced through the fact of our having also been a pupil of Hoffa's. If asked to select one we should recommend Bohm's book.

Massage is in our judgment an art rather than a science. Though it calls for some knowledge of

anatomy and physiology, it is largely intuitive. We can always impart the hand grips and manipulations of massage. But that indefinable, but by the patient always recognizable quality, which differentiates the true masseur from the husky rubber cannot be imparted. If it isn't there, it never will be. Of no group of practitioners of the various branches of the healing art might it so truthfully have been said that while "Many are called, but few are chosen."

J. T. W.

Diseases of the Stomach, Including Dietetic and Medicinal Treatment. By George Roe Lockwood, M. D., Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Columbia University; Attending Physician to Bellevue Hospital, New York. In one octavo volume of 624 pages, with 126 engravings and 15 plates. Cloth, \$5.50, net. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia and New York, 1913.

It is a great pleasure at last to review a book on the stomach which is abreast of modern thought and physiology: one that reflects the author's opinions and experiences; and which deals frankly and honestly with the question of therapeutics instead of piling up a junk-room of methods and drugs many of which were never used to any extent by their originators—let alone by anyone else.

The introduction of brief case histories is also an advantage because the accounts of disease in a text book are always composite pictures that cannot always fit the case in hand. It encourages the man with a puzzling case to find that Dr. Lockwood has seen gastric ulcers with anacidity and no pain, and carcinomas with hyperacidity. He reports his cases as he has seen them and if they do not always conform to theory he cannot help it—the good Lord will not always read Osler.

The new radiologic work is well abstracted and presented in a form that will be welcomed by the man who wants to know what the X-ray can actually do to help him. Screen work is badly slighted but this is the fault of the American roentgenologists as a class. The time has come when a man cannot hope to do stomach work without a good X-ray equipment.

The book is a storehouse of valuable statistics from the experience of the author and from men like the Mayos, Moynihan, etc. Some of the conclusions may be a little startling to those who have not been following the literature of the subject. For instance, that achylia is found so frequently without any symptoms; that hyperacidity can be found in four per cent of cancer cases and twenty per cent of enteroptotics, etc. It is a pleasure to see how fully the author appreciates the interrelations between all parts of the tract; the effect of the appendix and gall-bladder upon the stomach, etc. It is strange, however, that he could still entitle his book "Diseases of the Stomach." Realizing the immensity of the field, the author probably intended to limit himself to this one organ but his book will be referred to as a guide to the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of digestion; and the final chapter on appendicitis, gall-stones, tabes, constipation, etc., shows how impossible it is to draw the line anywhere.

The great clinical importance of atony and gastroptosis would have been more apparent to the reader if chapters X and XVI had been combined or at least put next to each other in the book. Moreover, how can one write of gastroptosis without a discussion of enteroptosis, floating-kidney, movable cecum, and the underlying habitus. It is not sufficiently emphasized that the stomach is largely a hopper to pass food to the duodenum as needed and that the small intestine is the real organ of digestion. Gastric and duodenal ulcer are treated together in one chapter, we believe with great advantage. Most of the ulcers are so